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HEALTH

LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for the Year ending 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

Medical Officer of Health - Herbert Newsome, M.B., B.S.,
Sanitary Inspector - E. T. H. Hawkins, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
2nd Sanitary Inspector - B. Barker, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Long Ashton Rural District Council.

Sir, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the health and sanitary condition of the District during the past year. The information thereon is, as far as possible, in conformity with the requirements of the Minister of Health, as laid down in Circulars 2604 of 24th March, 1942, and 2773 of the 10th March, 1943.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area:- 46,515 acres.
Population (Census 1931):- 20,378.
Population (Registrar General's estimate):- 24,840.
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1942) according to Rate Books:- 6,495.
Rateable Value:- £172,297.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate:- £704. 10. 0.

There are no important changes to note as regards the social conditions and general characteristics of the area, except that the District is classed as a "Reception Area" for evacuation purposes, which subject is dealt with at the end of the report.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		M.	F.	Total.	Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population (middle of 1942
Live Births:-	Legitimate.....	185	185	370	
	Illegitimate....	10	11	21	
	Total....	195	196	391	15·7.

		M.	F.	Total.	
Still Births:-	Legitimate.....	3.	5	8	Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births:- 20·05.
	Illegitimate....	Nil	Nil	Nil	

	M.	F.	Total	
Deaths:-	127	123	250.	Death rate per 1000 of estimated Population:- 10·06.

Deaths from Puerperal causes:- Puerperal sepsis .....Nil.
Other puerperal causes 1

Death rates of Infants under 1 year of age:-	Total Deaths:-	8
" " all Infants per 1,000 live births:-		20·4
" " legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births		20·4
" " illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages):-	Nil
" " Cancer (all ages):-	59
" " Whooping Cough (all ages):- ...	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age):-	Nil.

The total number of births (391) is much larger than last year (328)
" Birth Rate (15·7) is much higher than last year (12·84).
The birth rate for England and Wales for 1942 is 15·8.
The total number of deaths (250) is lower than last year (268).
The death rate (10·06) is slightly lower than last year (10·4).
The death rate for England and Wales this year is 11·6.
The infant mortality rate (20·4) is much lower than last year (42·6).
The infant mortality rate for England and Wakes is 49·0.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Tuberculosis (respiratory)	6
" (other forms)	4
Cancer (all forms).	59
Intracranial vascular lesions (including cerebral haemorrhage and embolism)	20
Heart diseases	68
Other diseases of the circulatory system	8
Bronchitis	10
Pneumonia (all forms)	6
Other respiratory diseases	5
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	5
Appendicitis	4
Other diseases of digestive system	7
Nephritis (acute & chronic)	7
Premature birth	1
Congenital defects	4
Maternal causes (other than puerperal fever & pyrexia	1
Suicide	2
Road traffic accidents	1
Other violent causes	5
All other causes.	27.

PREVALENCE and CONTROL over INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

Disease.	Notifications.	Removals to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet fever	18	12	-
Diphtheria	10	9	-
Erysipelas	6	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	2	-
Cerebro-spinal-fever	2	2	-
Acute poliomyelitis	2	2	-
Pneumonia (all forms)	19	1	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	-
Measles	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	81	-	-
Totals.	145	30	6

Once again no notifications of small pox were received during the year, but the neglect of vaccination throughout the country continues, and remains a source of great danger, though systematic vaccination in H.M. Forces during the war will undoubtedly improve the percentage of vaccinated persons in the country for a time.

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases is markedly reduced, largely owing to the cessation at the end of 1941 of the measles outbreak, but scarlet fever and diphtheria have both been much less prevalent as shown by the following figures:- Scarlet fever - 17 notifications compared with 82 in 1941, and Diphtheria - 10 notifications compared with 24 in 1941. There have again been no deaths from either of these diseases or any notifiable diseases except pneumonia and tuberculosis. The number of cases removed to isolation hospital for treatment is also much reduced, a total of 30 cases (mostly scarlet fever and diphtheria) compared with 95 in 1941.

Diphtheria Immunization. This is under the control of the County Authority, all children of school age (5 years and over) being inocculated by the County School Medical Officers subject to the consent of parents.

Children under 5 years of age are inocculated by general medical practitioners, the prophylactic material being supplied free of charge by the County Authority. In this respect the number of children inocculated in the Long Ashton Rural District during this year has been considerably greater than in any other Rural District in the County.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Notifications.....	19	10	2	3	34
Deaths.....	4	3	2	-	9
Removals to Sanatoria ...	10	3	-	-	13

There is nothing to complain of as to neglect of notification and there has been no necessity to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Acts and Regulations, 1925. Health visiting and sanatorium treatment are under the control of the County Authority. Tuberculosis Dispensaries for this area are at the Central Clinic, Bristol, and at Clevedon.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS and DEATHS in AGE PERIODS.

Age periods	Notifications.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1st year							1	
1 to 5 years		1	1	1				
5 to 15 "		1	1					
15 to 25 "	6	2		1	2	1		
25 to 35 "	5	4						
35 to 45 "	4				1	1		
45 to 55 "	2				1	1		
55 to 65 "	1	1		1				
65 and over	1	1				1		
Totals	19	10	2	3	4	4	1	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

A list of members of the Public Health staff is given at the commencement of the report. Laboratory facilities are provided by the County Authority at the County Hall, Taunton. Hospital treatment for cases of infectious diseases is provided at the Bristol Infectious Diseases Hospital by arrangement with the Bristol Health Authority. There is no change to report in such matters as Ambulance facilities, Nursing in the home, Treatment Centres and Clinics, or Hospitals, public and voluntary.

The legislation in force in the Area is also unchanged.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no shortage of water in the District during the year.

No important extensions of water supplies have been carried out or considered during the year.

All public supplies owned by the Council were examined bacteriologically and all samples were found to be free from contamination.

Continuous chlorination of the Yatton Parochial Supply commenced during the year by means of an electrically operated chlorinating plant, the supply being treated at the source.

Twenty four samples of water were taken during the year and bacteriologically examined at the County Laboratory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There is nothing fresh to report with regard to new sewerage and sewage disposal schemes.

The sewage pumping station at Yatton is subject to flooding in times of very heavy rain, the existing pumping machinery being unable to deal with the increased flow of water, with the result that the occupants of the houses near the works are caused considerable annoyance through sewage, trade waste, and storm water backing up the house drain. Additional pumping machinery will need to be installed sooner or later as this flooding is having a tendency to become more acute during each succeeding period of very heavy rain.

The Backwell and North Weston Sewage Works have continued to work satisfactorily and a good standard of effluent has been maintained.

Rivers & Streams; Public Cleansing; Smoke Abatement, Swimming Baths & Pools. There is nothing fresh to report in these matters.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No premises were found to be infested with bed bugs. One Council house which was found to be badly infested towards the end of the previous year was kept under observation for some months after treatment, but no recurrence of infestation occurred.

CAMPING SITES.

Many sites in the District are used as camping grounds, a number of them being only used at week-ends during the summer months. Some of the sites are licensed by the Council under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Several sites came into being during the air raids on Bristol and are chiefly occupied by caravans and trailer caravans. These sites have given rise to very little trouble from a public health point of view.

SCHOOLS.

There is no change in the number of local schools and all are in a satisfactory condition. Six buildings are used as temporary schools for evacuated children.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT for the YEAR 1942.

Inspections.	No. of complaints received during the year ..	66
	No. of houses, premises, etc., inspected	377
	No. of re-visits to see that work has been carried out or for other reasons ..	98
	No. of houses disinfected, or to which disinfectants were supplied	53
	No. of visits to cases of infectious disease.	37
	Tuberculosis:- Disinfections 8. Visits 12 ..	
Sewers.	No. of new sewers laid down by builders	-
	No. of sewers cleansed or repaired	1
	No. of visits to sewage works, cesspools, etc.	130
House drains.	No. of existing houses connected to sewers...	8
	No. repaired or cleansed	5
	No. re-laid (piped)	-
	No. of new pipe drains laid	10
Earth closets, Cesspools, and Water closets.	No. of privies abolished	-
	No. of cesspools cleansed or re-constructed..	3
	No. of new cesspools	-
	No. of cesspools abolished	8
	No. of new water closets	10
	No. of new water closet pans or repairs	6
	No. of new earth closets constructed	-
	No. of earth closets cenverted into water closets....	1
New houses.	No. of new houses completed and occupied	-
	No. of new houses supplied by Company's water	-
	No. of new houses supplied be wells or cisterns	-
Water supply.	No. of samples of water taken for examination	24
	No. of existing houses supplied with Company's Water	8
	No. of new wells	-
	No. of wells or cisterns cleansed or repaired	1
	No. of dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops inspected...	121
	No. of bakehouses inspected	18
	No. of slaughterhouses inspected	-
	No. of factories inspected	6
	No. of statutory notices served.....	-
	Ministry of Health inquiries held	-
	Legal proceedings taken	-

HOUSING.

No dwelling houses were erected by the Council or by private enterprise.

The majority of the houses subject to demolition orders are temporarily occupied on license or after being requisitioned by the Council with the consent of the Ministry of Health. These houses have been let as far as possible to an approved tenant, usually one who has been rendered homeless by enemy action.

The temporary overcrowding has abated somewhat since the cessation of enemy air attacks. There is however, a considerable waiting list of applicants desiring Council Houses.

1.- Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects ... ... (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	19
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	20
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 and 1932	12
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	13
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	10

2.- Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

(a)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	8
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	Nil

3.- Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners ... ... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... Nil

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners ... ... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... Nil

(C) Proceedings under Section 11, 13, and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil

(3) (a) Clearance orders made ... ... Nil
(b) Number of houses involved ... ... Nil

(4) Clearance orders confirmed ... ... Nil

(a) Number of houses involved ... ... Nil
(b) Number of houses demolished .. ... Nil
(c) Number of houses to be demolished . 34

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit ... ... Nil

UNFITNESS AND CONDEMNATION OF FOOD.

The following food was condemned during the year as being unfit for human consumption:-

Beef	98 lbs.	Pork Luncheon Meat	54 lbs.
Bacon	17 lbs.	Meat roll	24 lbs.
Pork Sausage Meat	4½ lbs.	Dates	70 lbs.
Chopped ham	6 lbs.	Condensed milk	6 tins.
		Pilchards	9 tins.

Slaughter-houses. The eleven slaughter-houses, nine of which are registered and two licensed, are temporarily out of use during the period of hostilities, centralised slaughtering taking place in a public slaughterhouse outside the District, under the control of the Ministry of Food.

MILK.

No. of producers on the Register	338.
No. of distributors only	23.
No. of distributors who are also producers	60.
No. of producers of Tuberculin Tested milk	15.
No. of producers of Accredited milk	31.

During the year 52 samples of accredited milk and 48 samples of tuberculin tested milk were taken on behalf of the County Council and examined at the County Laboratory. 11 samples of mixed milk were also taken and examined at the County Laboratory for the presence of tubercle bacilli. The presence of tubercle bacilli was found in none of these samples. Sampling was discontinued for several months of the year owing to outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in adjacent areas.

EVACUATION.

1942 had the opposite story to tell to that reported of 1941. There were no air raids on Bristol during the early Winter and most of the Bristolians who had made a habit of sleeping in the District returned to their own homes and resumed their normal lives. The number of officially billeted under the priority classes dropped to 750 persons at the end of the year.

The only influx into the District concerned War Workers. There being over 200 billeted in the parishes of Flax Bourton, Wraxall, Nailsea, and Yatton.

I am happy to state that the number of evacuee children suffering from skin diseases was less than previously and the few cases of scabies were sent to the Government's Sick Bays for treatment. One new Hostel was opened at Farleigh Combe, Farleigh, by the Bristol Education Committee for the reception of backward children. The Grange at Flax Bourton, the Hostel for difficult children, once more changed management during the year and is now under the direct control of the Medical Officer of Health of the Somerset County Council.

As will be seen from the details given in this report there have been no new water supply, sewage disposal, or housing developments whatever during the year, but it is hoped that some progress in the provision of rural workers' cottages will be made during the coming year.

In spite of the reduction in the number of sanitary inspectors, the work of the department has again been efficiently carried on and the sanitary condition of the District is as satisfactory as could be wished. This also applies to the health of the people which appears to have been in no way adversely affected by wartime dieting and general conditions.

In conclusion I again tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence and support given to me in the performance of my duties, and to the Officers of the Health and other Departments for their able and willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT NEWSOME,
Medical Officer of Health.